

0.4-0.5 mm. Caryopsis elliptic-obovate, 1.8-2 x 0.6-0.8 mm. Upper floret reduced to a rudimentary structure.

Fl. & Fr.: July-October.

Exsiccata: Ajara, Potdar 1566.

Note: *Lepturus radicans* was collected by us from Dandeli forest of Karnataka in June 2003. Recently, it was collected from forests around Ajara region in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. It is common in shady places along roadsides and forest margins. The spikelet is two flowered, but the upper floret is highly reduced and represented by a small appendage on protruded rachilla.

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25. *NERVILIA INFUNDIBULIFOLIA* BLATTER & MCCANN (ORCHIDACEAE): A NEW RECORD FROM SIKKIM HIMALAYA

Nervilia infundibulifolia (Orchidaceae) was first described by Blatter & McCann from North Canara of Karnataka, India; based on the specimen from Yellapur, N. Canara, T.R. Bell mss. Icon. E. Bell.

Later, the occurrence of this taxon was known both from Western Himalaya (Garhwal) and Eastern Himalaya (only Arunachal Pradesh) (Deva and Naithani 1986; Chowdhery 1998) leaving Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan.

The species was reported from Bhutan in 2002 for the first time by Pearce and Cribb (2002). However, it is hitherto unknown from Nepal and Sikkim. Recently, a collection of this taxon from Sikkim Himalaya (between Yoksum and Bakhim, West Sikkim) was made and is a new record for Sikkim Himalaya. Thus, it is expected that this species has a continuous distribution from Western Himalaya to Eastern Himalaya and extends eastwards to Thailand, Malay and Borneo (Pearce and Cribb 2002), along with its first record from the Western Ghats region, Maharashtra and Orissa, in India. It is possible that the species occurs in Nepal and Myanmar and also Yunnan and Hupeh region of China.

A detailed description of the taxon along with the present known distributional records is given below.

Nervilia infundibulifolia Blatter & McCann in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 35: 725. t.3.1932; Deva & Naithani, Orchid Fl. N.W. Himalaya 85. t.83.1986; Chowdhery, Orchid Fl. Arunachal Pradesh 529. t.530.1998; Pearce & Cribb, Fl. Bhutan 3(3- Orchids of Bhutan): 58. t.59.2002.

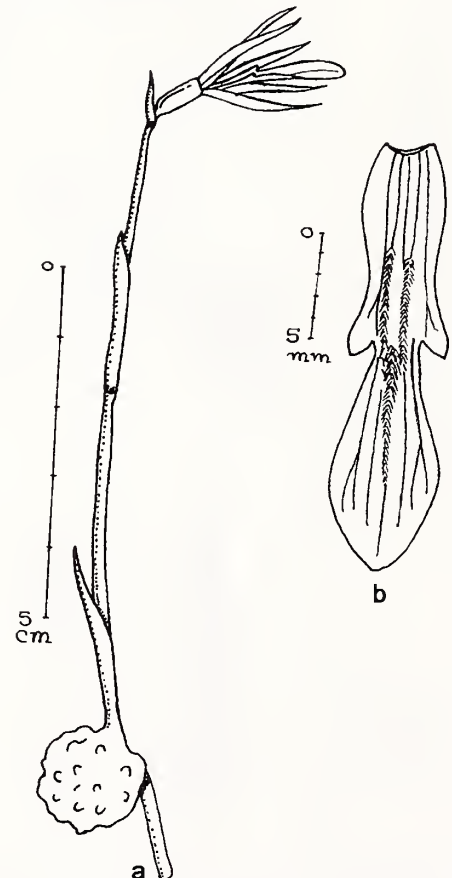


Fig. 1: *Nervilia infundibulifolia* Blatter & McCann;
a. Habitat; b. Lip

Nervilia hallbergii Blatter & McCann in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 35: 726.1932.

N. calcicola Kerr in J. Siam Soc. Nat. Hist. Suppl. 9(2): 242. t.7.1933.

Proteranthous, tuberous herb up to 15 cm tall (scape). Tuber sub-globose, 0.6-1.5 cm diam. *Leaves* broadly ovate to suborbicular, 2-4 cm across, base cordate, margin undulate to crenulate, apex acute to acuminate, glabrous, spreading on ground; petioles sheathing at base. *Flower* solitary, at right angle on scape; scape with two internodes; scape sheaths two, linear-oblongate, 1.5-3 cm long, apex acute to acuminate, clasping, glabrous; floral bract solitary, linear-lanceolate, 0.3-0.7 x 0.2 cm, acuminate. Flowers (sepals and petals) light maroon-green to greenish-purple to greenish-brown; nerves deep-coloured; lip apple-green to white, tinged with pink; *sepals* linear-oblongate, 1.3-1.8 x 0.2-0.3 cm, acute, 3-nerved; *petals* linear-oblongate, 1.2-1.7 x 0.15-0.2 cm, acute, 1-nerved; *lip* 1.5-2 x 0.2-0.3 cm, distinctly 3-lobed, weakly saccate at base, with 2 hairy lines on hypochile and one papillose line on epichile; lateral lobes triangular, about 0.1 x 0.1 cm; middle lobe larger, obovate to ovate, about 1 x 0.3

cm, margin entire; column straight. *Fruits* cylindrical.

Specimen examined: West Sikkim, Yoksum to Bakhim, 1800 m, May 12, 2002, D. Maity & N. Pradhan 23403 - BSHC (two gatherings).

Field notes: "Terrestrial, bulb globose, juicy; sepals and petals greenish-brown; lip white, tinged with pink dots; middle lobe flat; lateral lobes very small."

Distribution: INDIA: Himalaya: Uttaranchal; Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka, Maharashtra; Bhutan; Thailand; Malay; Borneo; grows on open slopes, loose soils, along road sides in warm subtropical forests ascending up to 1800 m altitude.

Fl. and Fr.: May-July.

July 14, 2003

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26. *BULBOPHYLLUM REPTANS* (LINDL.) LINDL. (ORCHIDACEAE): A CRITICAL STUDY

Bulbophyllum reptans (Lindl.) Lindl. is known for its wide distribution from India (Garhwal Himalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh) to Vietnam including Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar and Thailand (Seidenfaden 1979). This taxon is further enriched by two more varieties to the typical one as var. *subracemosa* Hook.f. and var. *acuta* Malhotra and Balodi.

The variety *subracemosa* Hook.f. was established by Hooker (1890) based on differentiating characters, like presence of smaller pseudobulbs; much shorter length of oblong, obtuse floral bracts than the longer pedicellate ovary. This variety was recognized by King and Pantling (1898), Srivastava (1996) and Chowdhery (1998).

The other variety *acuta* Malhotra and Balodi (1984) is differentiated by longer floral bracts than the pedicellate ovary, based on collection from Gorpatta, Gori Valley, Pithoragarh, India (*M.A. Rau*, 35340-CAL).

Seidenfaden (1979) had quoted the opinion of Guillaumin regarding the further taxonomic treatment of this taxon, that the flower of the Langbian plant is yellow with small dark red spots at tips of the petals and dark red lip with a green median line, which is not quite different from the colour description given by Hooker f. and King and Pantling, and therefore perhaps a Vietnamese variety should be

recognized as a separate identity. In the Thai plant, the flowers are yellow, the dorsal sepal with three faint purple lines at base and the proximal edges of the lip being purple.

Thus, the taxon *Bulbophyllum reptans* (Lindl.) Lindl. is now considered to have two more varieties var. *subracemosa* and var. *acuta* in addition to the typical one, and a proposed unnamed (?) variety (Vietnamese variety) based on the colouration of petals and lips. Of course, Seidenfaden (1979) did not recognize the separate entity of the variety *subracemosa* Hook.f. In this regard, he had referred to *Bulbophyllum ombrophyllum* Gagnep.

Regarding the variety *acuta* Malhotra and Balodi, the distinguishing character such as the larger floral bracts than that of the pedicellate ovary, cannot be considered good taxonomic characters to establish a new variety.

While working on the floristics of Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve of Sikkim Himalaya, specimen (*D. Maity*, 24275-BSHC) was collected with the smallest pseudobulb (*c.* 7-8 x 7-8 mm), slightly smaller to equal to slightly longer floral bracts (*c.* 5.5 x 2 mm) than the pedicellate ovary; sepals with distinct characteristic shape as stated by Lindley in 1830 with prominent three nerves and light yellow colour; the spatulate *c.* 3.5 mm long petals having brownish-purple coloured lip.